



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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WOMEN'S COMMISSION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS FOR 2006-07

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) announces the following volunteers recently elected as officers to its Advisory Board:

Elected president for a second term, **Tami Soper** works as Legislative Aide for Senator Gwen Howard. She is an active community member and has served on numerous non-profit and city advisory boards, including Lighthouse, Clyde Malone Community Center, Health Partners Initiative, the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department Quality Improvement Council and the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Elected as LLWC vice president, **Connie Schmidt** is employed as financial management director for the National Student Loan Program. She serves as LLWC's chair to the Women & Money Conference held each fall. She has been actively involved in the community, serving on such volunteer boards as the Parent Teacher Student Association, Nebraska Teacher of the Year review committee and the Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Elected member-at-large, **Jeri Brandt, PhD**, a registered nurse, works as a nursing instructor at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She joined the commission in 2004 and serves as chair of the LLWC Health Committee. Her background in community health and mental health issues has prepared her to understand the needs of women who are least able to make their needs known. Brandt brings knowledge and experience to the board as our society begins to recognize mental health issues is an important component of a woman's overall well being.

Elected member-at-large, **Marcia Malone** works as a licensed mental health counselor at Lincoln Behavioral Health Clinic in Lincoln, NE. Malone serves as co-chair to the Health Care and WomenTalk Committees. Her passion is eliminating the inequalities in research and health care for women. She joined the Commission because she was impressed with the work that LLWC had accomplished over the years. Aware that Nebraska ranks poorly for equity in the workplace, Malone believed she could add another strong voice to help educate the public and elected officials in hopes of making a difference for the future of daughters and granddaughters; hopefully, inequity for women will not be an issue for our great-granddaughters.

The Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission (LLWC) is a City/County agency housed in the Office of the Mayor. Taxpayer funded, LLWC's budget represents 5/100th of one percent of the County Budget and 6/100th of one percent of the City Budget - about 70 cents per person per year.

When you strengthen women, you strengthen families.